

Aldrin on the moon. Three years ago NASA set up the Mars Pathfinder, which has expanded knowledge of our close neighbors and given us an idea of the possibilities of life off of Earth. This March NASA finishes a project mapping Mars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has discovered new galaxies and planets in our solar system.

NASA's Hubble Telescope gave us incredible color pictures of space. They discover new worlds, enrich our minds, and stir our spirits.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that NASA is partly to thank for the long, long lines referred to by my dear friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) that are now currently outside the new Star Wars Phantom Menace.

So I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues have decided to make it partisan. They singled out one particular project for elimination, one out of all the projects, Mr. Speaker. That project has been championed by Vice President GORE. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no reason for the elimination of this particular project except partisan politics.

In the future, Mr. Speaker, I hope my Republican colleagues will allow us to see the bills before we actually vote on them. I urge my colleagues to support this open rule and to support this bill. NASA does provide the research for the future and the explanations for the past.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1553, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND RELATED AGENCIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 175 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 175

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1553) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and

for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 175 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001 for the National Weather Service, Atmospheric Research, and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

The rule further provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and now printed in the bill.

The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point. The Chair is authorized by the rule to grant priority to recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration.

The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that House Resolution 175 is a fair rule. It is an open rule for the consideration of H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999.

It is my understanding that some Members may wish to offer germane amendments on this bill, and under this open rule they will have every opportunity to do so. H.R. 1553 authorizes funding for several very important weather service programs in the United States. In fact, funding for the National Weather Service alone is about one-third of the total annual National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration budget.

Mr. Speaker, as the events of Monday, May 3, in Oklahoma showed us, we are still often powerless against the fury of Mother Nature. An outbreak of more than 40 tornadoes claimed 44 lives, destroyed or heavily damaged 5,200 homes, and left more than \$1 billion in property damage in its wake. The damage to life, property, and community was devastating, but it could have been even worse without the National Weather Service's first tornado warning at 4:45 p.m.

This rule, and its underlying bill, will help improve, modernize and automate weather observations and improve public forecasts and warnings of severe weather events.

The fact is the National Weather Service provides a valuable source of early warning and observations to the American people. Whether a tornado or hurricane, blizzard or tropical storm, this rule and its underlying bill can save countless lives and property by assuring early and accurate warning systems.

Further, atmospheric research programs have helped improve severe weather forecast and warning capabilities, and improved knowledge about severe storms and the science of weather modification, important for U.S. transportation and agriculture.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN), the ranking member, for their hard work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support both this open rule and the underlying bill.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 175 is a fair, completely open rule, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. The debate will be equally divided and controlled by the majority, and equally divided, as far as the debate is concerned, between the majority and minority.

The rule permits amendments to come up under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is about research to be conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It has tremendous potential to pay off through improved environmental quality and better weather prediction.

This bill provides no increase in funding in fiscal year 2001 for that research. Consequently, inflation will result in a slight cut in spending power. Funding in important areas of research like this should remain stable. Therefore, it is unfortunate that the committee rejected an amendment to provide a modest 3 percent increase in fiscal year 2001.

This rule waives the requirement for a 3-day layover of the committee report. This was necessary because the report was not filed until Tuesday. Waiving this rule gives Members a little less time to examine the bill and to draft amendments.

Despite these concerns, the bill is relatively uncontroversial. The rule is an open rule which will give Members the opportunity to offer amendment. The rule was adopted by voice vote of the Committee on Rules. For these reasons, I can support the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on this resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1045

# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REYNOLDS). Pursuant to House Resolution 174 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1654.

The Chair designates the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to assume the chair temporarily.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is a 3-year authorization for our civil space program. When combined with separate legislation authorizing government-wide programs and high performance computing and information technologies, that represents a 1 percent annual increase over NASA's budget requests.

The bill provides full funding for the baselined International Space Station, which moved from a dream to a reality last year with the successful launch of the first two elements. At the same time, the bill promotes fiscal and programmatic responsibility by prohibiting NASA from adding content to the program in a costly new structure called Trans-Hab. Together, this constraint and the 3-year authorization will provide the Space Station with the stability it needs to achieve the same success fiscally that the program is demonstrating technically.

The bill also includes modest funding increases in areas of key scientific research. In the past few years the administration has cut some \$742 million out of life and microgravity research accounts in NASA. This bill restores

some \$228 million of that over 3 years to take a small step towards ensuring that the science community is prepared to maximize the research potential of the International Space Station.

It also contains increases for space science to put the Near Earth Object Survey back on track, to promote research in space solar power that will have applications here on Earth, and to offset the cost of NASA's emergency Hubble Space Telescope repair mission.

More importantly, the bill increases funding for NASA's work in advanced space transportation technologies. Last year we learned the perils of launching U.S.-built payloads on foreign rockets. In the last 6 months we have seen a string of launch failures that have reminded us how critical reliable, low-cost access to space is for our economy, our scientific endeavors, and our national security.

H.R. 1654 accelerates and increases the funding for NASA's programs to develop a new generation of space transportation vehicles. The NASA administrator and the head of the U.S. Space Command have both said frequently that this must be a high national priority. H.R. 1654 ensures that it is.

We have developed this bill on a bipartisan basis and reached agreement on a wide range of issues. I think our efforts to work together come through in the bill's list of bipartisan original cosponsors and its bipartisan endorsement by the Committee on Science last week.

There are a few remaining points on which the majority and minority disagree, and I want to thank Members of both parties for working together to iron out most of these over the past few days. For now we may have to agree to disagree on the few outstanding issues that remain, but they should not get in the way of such a sound and comprehensive bill upon which to build our future in space.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would first like to include for the RECORD a letter from Administrator Goldin of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in which, among other things, he states "NASA strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 1654."

The letter is as follows:

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 1999.

Hon. GEORGE E. BROWN, Jr.,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Science, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BROWN: This letter is to provide NASA's views on H.R. 1654, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1999," authorizing appropriations for FY 2000-2002, as ordered reported by the Committee on May 13, 1999.